

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

### INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

5           An information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map  
to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, so  
that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes;  
comprises a data network; an information retrieval client system connected to the data  
network; and one or more information item storage nodes connected to the data network;  
10 in which: each storage node comprises a store for storing a plurality of information items  
and indexing logic for transmitting data derived from information items stored at that  
storage node to the client system via the data network; and the client system comprises  
logic, responsive to data received from the indexing logic of a storage node, for  
generating a node position in respect of each information item represented by the  
15 received data.

Figure 12